

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 21

1230 Hours October 28, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

Next Conference Call is scheduled for Friday, October 28, 2005, 0930 hours

Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions. Contingency plans are in place for these actions to continue through November 30, 2005.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Southwest VA: Friday, 28 Oct. - Partly cloudy, High temperatures in lower to mid 50s, North winds 10 MPH or less.

Friday night - Mostly clear, Low temperatures in upper 20s to low 30s, Light winds.

Saturday, 29 Oct. - Sunny, High temperatures in lower to mid 50s, Light winds.

Saturday night - Clear, Low temperatures low to mid 30s, Light winds.

Sunday, 30 Oct. - Sunny, High temperatures in low to mid 60s, Light winds.

Sunday night - Clear, Low temperatures in upper 30s to low 40s.

NWS Morristown 7 day Hazardous Weather Outlook through Thursday 3 November forecast No hazardous weather at this time.

Big Cherry Dam IFLOWS rainfall gage indicated .12 inches during 24 hour period ending 28 Oct. 10 AM.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: *VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator on scene assisting locality. The Secretary of Public Safety visited pumping stations, dispensing sites and the reservoir yesterday.*

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting:

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

ESF 8 – Health & Medical:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Dr. Sue Cantrell is the State point of contact through the end of this week. Gastrointestinal illnesses are being closely monitored for any outbreaks. Currently no abnormalities have been detected. ***One new case of chicken pox reported in Powell Valley Schools.***

Water distribution to special needs on medically restricted extremely low sodium diets to continue. VDH will monitor food establishment's compliance with plans, and will monitor results of on going water tests. All boil water notices have been lifted. All holding tanks and storage areas at the water treatment plant are full. ***Two raw water samples will be taken from the Appalachia well site early next week.***

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

The VNG continues the blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are in place. Up to twelve soldiers remain on mission. ***Five guardsman assigned to the water distribution detail will be released tonight.***

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The DEQ reported that flow in the Powell River decreased from yesterday. ***DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis.***

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area with plans to change the messages on the boards every three days so that members of the community do not become complacent.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Department of General Services/Consolidated Labs

DGS/CL is continuing to test water samples.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Two Appalachia backup wells still not operational, expect them to be ready the week of Oct 31st and will sample when pumps/electricity are connected. The Town of Big Stone Gap is acquiring a pump that will return the water overflow to the water treatment plant. ***Long-term conservation measures will remain in effect and a renewed emphasis will be made to inform citizens that the situation has not returned to normal.***

The IFLOWS gage on the new Big Cherry Dam was installed yesterday.

Bottled water delivery to warehouse in Wise has been completed.

Big Stone Gap Public Works & Public Safety departments are coordinating plans for snow and ice removal from sites.

MECC is exploring an abandoned well site on the property as a potential potable water source.